

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 080672
ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 COME-00
TRSE-00 INT-05 FEA-01 CEQ-01 NSF-02 PA-02 PRS-01
USIA-15 ACDA-10 /079 R

DRAFTED BY OES/ENP/EN:CSANDERS:GCW
APPROVED BY OES - PATSY T. MINK
OES/ENP/EN:DRKING
S/OFA/FA:KCLARK-BOURNE
EUR/CAN:JROUSE
S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN
NSC - MR. TREVERTON

-----112027Z 027026 /43

R 111928Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL HALIFAX
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS STATE 080672

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, CA

SUBJECT: ANNUAL HARP SEAL HUNT IN CANADA - REPLY TO TELE-
GRAM TO PRESIDENT CARTER FROM FRANK MOORES, PREMIER OF
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

1. REQUEST POST TRANSMIT TO PREMIER MOORES BY MOST EXPEDI-
TIOUS MEANS THE FOLLOWING REPLY TO HIS MARCH 25 TELEGRAM TO
PRESIDENT CARTER.

BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR PREMIER MOORES:

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 080672

PRESIDENT CARTER HAS ASKED ME TO REPLY TO YOUR TELEGRAM
COMMUNICATING TO HIM YOUR CONCERN REGARDING THE RECENT
RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ON THE SUBJECT OF THE ANNUAL SEAL HUNT ON THE EAST COAST OF
CANADA. AS YOU REQUESTED, YOUR STATEMENT HAS BEEN MADE
AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE U.S. SENATE AND HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THAT THE SEAL HUNT IS A MATTER FOR CANADIANS TO DEAL WITH DIRECTLY AND THAT OUTSIDERS CAN ONLY REGISTER THEIR VIEWS, AS THE U.S. CONGRESS HAS DONE.

AS YOU KNOW, THE UNITED STATES HAS REPEATEDLY URGED WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES THAT BROADER CRITERIA OF AESTHETIC, SCIENTIFIC, CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL VALUES BE TAKEN FULLY INTO ACCOUNT IN THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE SEALS AND THAT THEY NOT BE VIEWED SIMPLY ON A BASIS OF ECONOMIC UTILITY. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT FURTHER SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS OF THE HARP SEAL POPULATION WOULD BE USEFUL IN ORDER TO DETERMINE MORE DEFINITELY WHETHER HARP SEALS ARE AT THEIR OPTIMUM SUSTAINABLE POPULATION LEVEL. WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK TO PROMOTE A CAUTIOUS, BROADLY CONSERVATIONIST AND HUMANE APPROACH IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THESE UNIQUE RESOURCES.

SINCERELY,

PATSY T. MINK

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
OCEANS AND INTERNATIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS END TEXT.

2. TEXT OF MR. MOORES' TELEGRAM FOLLOWS BELOW.

BEGIN TEXT.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

THE PURPOSE OF THIS TELEGRAM IS TO EXPRESS MY CONCERN AND
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 080672

THE CONCERN OF MY GOVERNMENT THAT THE RESOLUTION APPROVED IN YOUR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONDEMNING OUR SEAL HUNT ON THE EAST COAST OF CANADA IS BASED UPON A TOTALLY INADEQUATE UNDERSTANDING OF THE FACTS. I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD ARRANGE FOR THIS COMMUNICATION TO BE TABLED IN YOUR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND IN THE SENATE. I WISH TO PLACE THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ON THE RECORD SO THAT THE ISSUES SURROUNDING OUR SEAL HUNT CAN BE BETTER UNDERSTOOD. IT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED THAT THE SEAL HUNT HAS A LONG HISTORY OF TRADITION IN THIS PROVINCE AND THAT THE GREAT CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE HUNT HAS BEEN PERPETRATED BY INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS WHOSE INTENT IS MISCHIEVOUS. IT IS MY INTENTION TO DEAL WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF THE RESOURCE, THE ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE AND NEED FOR THE HUNT, AND THE METHOD OF KILLING:

1) ON THE QUESTION OF MANAGEMENT IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT SCIENTIFIC ADVICE IS PROVIDED BY INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED EXPERTS IN THE FIELDS OF SEAL BIOLOGY AND POPULATION DYN-

MICS. IN UNDERTAKING AN ASSESSMENT OF THE RESOURCE OUR SCIENTISTS IN CANADA WORK VERY CLOSELY WITH THEIR COUNTER-PARTS IN NORWAY AND DENMARK. IN ADDITION MANAGEMENT ADVICE HAS BEEN SOUGHT FROM AN INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE WHICH IS COMPOSED OF SCIENTISTS, VETERINARIANS, AND MEMBERS OF

VARIOUS HUMANE SOCIETIES. THE TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH FOR 1977 HAS BEEN SET AT 167,000 SEALS IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THIS LEVEL OF HARVESTING WILL NOT DAMAGE PRESENT SEAL STOCKS. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE SEAL STOCKS BE KEPT WITHIN A MANAGEABLE SIZE IN RELATION TO THE FISH RESOURCES UPON WHICH SEALS ARE DEPENDENT FOR FOOD. IF THE NUMBER OF SEALS IS ALLOWED TO INCREASE WITH NO KILLING OR WITHOUT OTHER CONSTRAINTS THEN THERE WILL BE AN IMBALANCE IN THE ECO-SYSTEM BETWEEN SEALS AND FISH. YOU WILL APPRECIATE THAT THE FISHING INDUSTRY IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND THAT SEALS ARE A PREDATOR

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 080672

OF FISH. EXCESSIVE INTERNATIONAL FISHING EFFORTS IN OUR WATERS HAS SEVERELY DEPLETED OUR FISH STOCKS SO THAT IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT SEAL STOCKS BE KEPT AT LEVELS WHICH WILL ALLOW REGENERATION OF FISH STOCKS.

2) IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ASSESS THE IMPORTANCE OF SEALING IN NEWFOUNDLAND WITHOUT ALSO CONSIDERING THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS WHICH EXIST IN THIS PROVINCE. YOU MUST REALIZE THAT OUR POPULATION IS SCATTERED OVER THOUSANDS OF MILES OF HEAVILY INDENTED COASTLINE. THIS RESULTED FROM THE FACT THAT PEOPLE SETTLED IN THOSE AREAS WHERE THEY HAD GREATEST ACCESS TO THE RESOURCES OF THE SEA. FROM AN ECONOMIC STANDPOINT OUR FISHERMEN DEPEND UPON THE FREEDOM TO ENGAGE IN A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT FISHING ACTIVITIES IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE AN ACCEPTABLE STANDARD OF LIVING. SEALING IS PURSUED AT A TIME OF YEAR WHEN IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR OUR FISHERMEN TO ENGAGE IN OTHER FISHING ACTIVITIES. THERE ARE FEW ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THIS PROVINCE PARTICULARLY DURING THE PERIOD OF THE SEAL HUNT. THE CONTRIBUTION OF OVER 2 MILLION DOLLARS WHICH THE SEAL MAKES TO THE NEWFOUNDLAND ECONOMY IS THEREFORE MORE HIGHLY VALUED THAN THE COLD STATISTICS WOULD SUGGEST. INDEED, THIS CONTRIBUTION PROVIDES A NECESSARY INCOME SUPPLEMENT FOR MORE THAN 5,000 SEAL HUNTERS.

3) THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT DEAL OF CONTROVERSY WITH RESPECT TO THE QUESTION OF KILLING METHODS AND THE MAIN QUESTION IS WHETHER THE METHOD OF KILLING IS HUMANE AND WHETHER IT BRINGS A QUICK AND PAINLESS DEATH TO THE ANIMAL, WITH THE ABSENCE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS OR

FEAR. A VARIETY OF METHODS HAVE BEEN TRIED AND THE MOST HUMANE METHOD WHICH HAS BEEN FOUND FOR THE KILLING OF SEAL PUPS IS CLUBBING WITH A WOODEN CLUB. I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE CANADIAN SEAL HUNT IS NOW THE BEST SUPERVISED AND REGULATED ANIMAL KILLING OPERATION IN OUR UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 080672

SOCIETY. THIS FACT IS ACKNOWLEDGED BY REPUTABLE HUMANE

GROUPS AND SOCIETIES IN CANADA. SEALS ARE KILLED WITH CLUBS EXPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR THIS PURPOSE AND DEATH IS INSTANTANEOUS. I SHOULD POINT OUT AS WELL THAT CLUBBING IS THE METHOD USED FOR TAKING SEALS IN OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL.

IT IS MY FIRM CONVICTION THAT THE CONTROVERSY WHICH HAS ARISEN CONCERNING THE SEAL HUNT HAS BEEN DELIBERATELY CREATED BY SELF-INTERESTED GROUPS. THESE GROUPS ARE DELIBERATELY USING THE ATTRACTIVE PHYSICAL APPEARANCE AND THE EMOTIONALLY APPEALING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BABY SEAL IN THEIR ENDEAVOUR TO AROUSE PUBLIC SYMPATHY. I AM CALLING UPON YOU TO QUESTION THE MOTIVES OF THOSE WHO ARE APPEALING TO OUR EMOTIONAL INSTINCTS IN ORDER TO FURTHER THEIR OWN MATERIAL INTERESTS, WITHOUT GIVING DUE CONSIDERATION TO THE SLANDER THEREBY INFLICTED UPON OUR FISHERMEN, AND INDEED, UPON THIS PROVINCE. I AM ASKING YOU TO RECONSIDER YOUR RESOLUTION AND I HOPE THAT THIS COMMUNICATION WILL ENABLE YOU TO WEIGH THE ISSUES CONCERNING THE SEAL HUNT FROM A MORE BALANCED PERSPECTIVE.

FRANK D. MOORES

PREMIER OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR. END TEXT
VANCE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, SPECIES PROTECTION, CONSERVATION, LOBBYING, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, FUR BEARING ANIMALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE080672
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CSANDERS:GCW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770125-0864
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770469/aaaachuo.tel
Line Count: 200
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f5b12fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2840469
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANNUAL HARP SEAL HUNT IN CANADA - REPLY TO TELE- GRAM TO PRESIDENT CARTER FROM FRANK MOORES, PREMIER OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
TAGS: SENV, CA, US, (MINK, PATSY T), (CARTER, JIMMY), (MOORES, FRANK D)
To: HALIFAX
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f5b12fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009